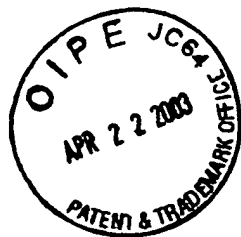


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

FAN et al.

Serial No. 09/779,202

Filed: February 7, 2001

For: NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION
METHODS USING UNIVERSAL
PRIMING

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Group Art Unit: 1645

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT OF RELATEDNESS

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant wishes to draw the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the references cited on the accompanying form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are enclosed herewith.

With respect to patent applications, the applicants point out their duty under M.P.E.P. §2001.06(b) to disclose relevant patent applications of which they are aware. To this end, the applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the following patent applications:

1. U.S.S.N. 08/944,850, filed October 6, 1997; U.S.S.N. 09/287,573, filed April 6, 1999.

Serial No.: 09/779,202

Filed: February 7, 2001

2. U.S.S.N. 08/818,199, filed March 24, 1997, now Patent No. 6,023,540; U.S.S.N. 09/151,877, filed September 11, 1998; U.S.S.N. 09/786,896, filed September 10, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/450,829, filed November 29, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/816,651, filed March 23, 2001; U.S.S.N. 09/840,012, filed April 20, 2001.

3. United States Serial Number 09/189,543, filed November 10, 1998; U.S.S.N. 09/344,526, filed June 24, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/748,706, December 22, 2000.

4. U.S.S.N. 09/256,943, filed February 24, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/473,904, filed December 28, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/606,369, filed June 28, 2000.

5. U.S.S.N. 09/553,993, filed April 20, 2000; U.S.S.N. 09/556,463, filed April 21, 2000.

6. U.S.S.N. 09/425,633, filed October 22, 1999; U.S.S.N. 09/535,854, filed March 27, 2000.

7. U.S.S.N. 09/517,945, filed March 3, 2000.

8. U.S.S.N. 09/513,362, filed February 25, 2000.

None of the foregoing references are believed to disclose the invention as claimed. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of any of the cited references, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application, within three months of the date of entry of a national stage, or

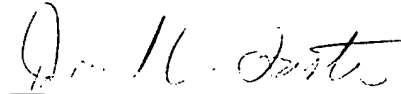
Serial No.: 09/779,202
Filed: February 7, 2001

before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), and therefore no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF).

Respectfully submitted,

FLEHR, HOHBACH, TEST,
ALBRITTON & HERBERT

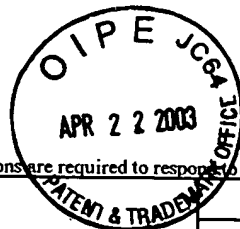
Dated: May 31, 2001



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| Application Number | 09/779,202 |
| Filing Date | February 07, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | JIAN-BING FAN et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 1645 |
| Examiner Name | NOT YET ASSIGNED |
| Attorney Docket Number | A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF |

Sheet 1 of 6

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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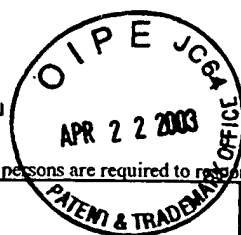
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| Application Number | 09/779,202 |
| Filing Date | February 07, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | LIAN-BING FAN et al. |
| Group Art Unit | 1645 |
| Examiner Name | NOT YET ASSIGNED |
| Attorney Docket Number | A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF |

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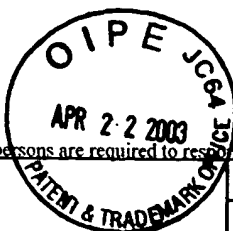
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| | | | | Filing Date | February 07, 2001 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | JIAN-BING FAN et al. |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 1645 |
| Examiner Name | NOT YET ASSIGNED | | | | |
| Sheet | 3 | of | 6 | Attorney Docket Number | A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF |

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| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
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| | | Filing Date | February 07, 2001 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | JIAN-BING FAN et al. | | |
| | | Group Art Unit | 1645 | | |
| | | Examiner Name | NOT YET ASSIGNED | | |
| Sheet | 4 | of | 6 | Attorney Docket Number | A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF |

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| | | Filing Date | February 07, 2001 | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | JIAN-BING FAN et al. | | |
| | | Group Art Unit | 1645 | | |
| | | Examiner Name | NOT YET ASSIGNED | | |
| Sheet | 5 | of | 6 | Attorney Docket Number | A-69850-1/DJB/RMS/DCF |

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| Filing Date | | | | February 07, 2001 | |
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| Group Art Unit | | | | 1645 | |
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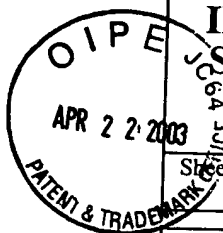
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